

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-16 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 7-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Laugharn, Jr. et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,948,843). Claims 7, 10-11 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Akira (JP 2000-338113). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The automatic analyzer as presently claimed in independent claims 7, 11 and 16 has a first acoustic wave generation means installed outside the reaction vessel to irradiate an acoustic wave toward the reaction vessel, and a second acoustic wave generation means to irradiate a lower acoustic wave from a bottom of the reaction vessel towards a liquid level of a mixed liquid so as to raise a part of the liquid level by an acoustic radiation pressure of the lower acoustic wave. Furthermore, the part of the liquid level raised by the lower acoustic wave generation means is irradiated with an acoustic wave from the first acoustic wave generation

means by controlling the position for irradiation. Therefore, according to the presently claimed invention, since a part of the liquid level raised by the second acoustic wave generation means is irradiated with the acoustic wave, a swirling flow of the mixed liquid of the specimen and the reagent is generated so that it is properly agitated.

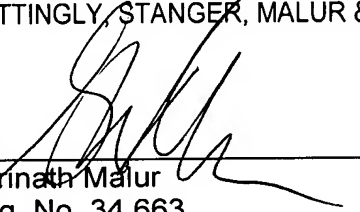
Laugharn, Jr. et al and Akira do not disclose any such first and second acoustic wave generation means as recited. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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